

Summary of the Monroe County Profile for Human Services Planning for the 2004-2007 Integrated County Planning Process

I. Demographics

Overall, the area has gained population, but the area is experiencing sprawl as the number of suburban residents has grown while the city population has declined. All ethnic groups show the same pattern of growth in the suburbs.

From 1990 to 2000, Monroe County's Latino population grew, as did the number of adults in all age groups 35 and older. During the same time, there was a marked decline in the numbers of adults ages 20-35. The older adult population is notably less racially diverse and more female than the overall population and has undergone a dramatic growth in suburban areas while their numbers have decreased the city.

The city population is more racially diverse and proportionately younger than that of the suburbs.

From 1990 to 2000, there was been a decline in married couple households and somewhat of an increase in households headed by single parents, both male and female.

II. Economic Stability

The county's economy has become more service-based in recent years and the number of people employed in manufacturing has declined. Since 2000, Monroe County has experienced both negative job growth and an increase in unemployment.

The median income of Monroe County residents is higher than the national median income and is comparable to that of New York state overall. There are large income disparities between white and African American residents, between city and suburban residents, and between married couples and female-headed households. The gap between median incomes in the city and in the overall county widened between 1990 and 2000, but in both the city and the county as a whole, the percent of low-income households decreased and the percent of high income households increased during this period.

Child poverty is very high, especially within the city and especially for Latino and African American youth. From 1990 to 2000, child poverty dropped slightly in both the city and the overall county, but rose for those 18 and over. While the percent of households living in poverty in Monroe County rose, one household type, female-headed households, had a notable drop in their poverty rate.

Caseloads for the cash assistance programs Temporary Assistance to Needy Families and Safety Net rose steadily from 1980 until the mid-1990s, when they dropped each year until 2001. Since 2001, there has been an increase in the Safety Net caseload and only a slight decrease in numbers receiving TANF. There has been a sharp increase in the Medicaid caseloads since 1997. Numbers served by the child care assistance program have decreased over the past two years and families receiving assistance have shifted away from center-based care to family day care homes and informal day care arrangements.

Placements for homeless youth and adults have risen. It is important to note that this is not a count of homeless individuals, but rather of services provided.

In terms of housing, suburban Monroe County has a much larger percent of owner-occupied housing than the city and the city has a somewhat higher rate of housing vacancies.

III. Health and Safety

Monroe County's public health data show progress for the population as a whole, but African Americans and those living in the city have been somewhat left behind. For example, Monroe County has a higher rate of pregnant women receiving prenatal care during their first trimester and a lower rate of low birthweight babies than New York State overall and has made strides in reducing infant mortality, teen pregnancy, and repeat births to teens, but for all of these indicators, there are troubling disparities between whites and African Americans and city and suburban residents.

There is much good news in that childhood immunization rates are up, asthma hospitalization rates for very young children are down and the percent of Monroe County adults and children with health insurance coverage is far greater than the national average. The county's syphilis cases, AIDS death rates and teen smoking rates are down. However, there is a stubbornly high incidence of gonorrhea in Monroe County and childhood lead exposure has emerged as a serious public health problem, especially among low-income children in the inner city.

Data suggest relatively high levels of substance abuse in Monroe County, and there have been recent increases in the numbers of alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes. Improvements can be seen in the rate of hospitalizations due to alcohol or drug abuse. The results of a survey of county teens suggest that cocaine and heroin use are up slightly in recent years, but alcohol and marijuana use have not changed.

There was a decline the numbers of adults receiving inpatient and Emergency Department-based mental health services from 1998 to 2001. During the same period however, there was an increase in children and youth receiving these services. From 2000 to 2001, there was a 3% increase in the total number of adults and children receiving services through the Monroe County Office of Mental Health.

From 1995 to 2000, Monroe County's crime rates went down in every category except homicides. This includes youth arrests, non-violent crimes, domestic violence and violent crimes other than homicide. The city consistently has a higher crime rate than the suburbs.

IV. Education

Data indicate that Monroe County's suburbs fare much better than the city in terms of educational attainment, high school drop out rates, and the academic achievement of 4th and 8th grade students. Overall more 4th grade students are meeting math and English language grade level standards than are 8th graders. City 8th graders had especially low test scores, with less than 20% meeting either math or English standards.

V. Children and Youth

In the area of foster care:

- ◆ Monroe County has a lower placement rate than New York State as a whole, but a higher rate than four of the five most comparable counties in the state.
- ◆ The rate of placements in Monroe County remained steady from 1990 to 2001, but decreased slightly in 2002.
- ◆ Roughly half of the children in foster care in Monroe County are African American and the largest age group in care is 14 to 17 year olds.
- ◆ About 40% of children of all races in foster care are placed with foster parents of the same race and the majority of sibling groups in foster care are at least partially intact.

- ♦ Since the early 1990s, Monroe County has greatly increased the number of children discharged from foster care to adoptive families.
- ♦ Children under the age of eight have a greater chance of being discharged from foster care to adoption in less than two years than do older children.

Child Protective and Preventive Services

The numbers of allegations investigated by CPS was higher in the past three years than any year in the 1990s. CPS investigated 5,967 cases in 2002 and since 1999, an average of 30% investigated cases have been indicated each year. The vast majority of cases investigated involve neglect rather than abuse.

The numbers of children served by Preventive Services was fairly steady from 1990 to 2002, hovering between 4,390 and 4,960. Of the children who entered foster care in Monroe County in 2001, only 23.9% had received preventive services prior to admission to foster care.

Juvenile Justice Indicators

From 1995 to 2002, there was a substantial decrease in the number of Juvenile Delinquent cases opened by Monroe County's Probation Department.

2002 saw an upward shift in numbers of PINS complaints filed. Monroe County has a lower rate of PINS complaints than comparable counties and the state as a whole, but has higher rates of placement of PINS and JD youth.

Since the early 1990s, the primary reason for PINS complaints has shifted from youth being ungovernable to truancy. Runaways are the second most common reason for PINS complaints.

During the 1990s, the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services found that while minority youth are over-represented in the juvenile justice system in Monroe County, disproportionate minority confinement of juveniles is attributable to both the higher arrest rate of non-white youth in the county and the fact that minority youth are more likely to be detained following arrest, but not to inequities in the processing of detained youth. Once detained, white youth are actually more likely to be placed than minority youth.

VI. Older Adults

As discussed in the first section, this group has grown in size, especially in the higher ages and is increasingly living in the suburban areas of the county.

The 60+ Monroe County population grew by 3.5%, from 118,470 to 122,654.

In the 2000 census, 77% of all those age 60+ in the county lived in the suburbs, up from 70% in 1990. The city-suburb demographic trend will continue to have implications for service provision and community development.

Between 1990 and 2000 the age 75 and over population in Monroe County increased 27.7% from 38,615 to 49,311. Over the next ten years this demographic trend will have financial implications for the county. More people will be outliving their resources and becoming dependent on Medicaid to pay for their health expenses.

Between 1990 and 2000 the age 85 and older population in Monroe County increased 34.7% from 1990, from 10,121 to 13,635 persons. This demographic trend will also have financial implications for the county. However the implication is these individuals are already beginning to

outlive their resources and becoming more dependent on Medicaid to pay for their health expenses.

There appears to be a disparity between white and African American senior citizens in terms of the rate in which they receive flu shots.

Adult Protective Services cases have been on the rise from 1992 to 2002. The majority of APS cases are white, female and located in the city. Self-neglect is a much larger problem for APS clients than is abuse or neglect by others.

VI. ANALYSIS OF MONROE COUNTY HUMAN SERVICE NEEDS BY ZIP CODE

Areas that have a high portion of residents receiving public assistance from DHHS also have high levels of family poverty, teen pregnancy and involvement with the child welfare system.

A number of zip codes, representing the northeast, northwest and southwest areas in the City of Rochester, were in the top of all rankings related to public assistance usage, family poverty, teen pregnancy and CPS involvement. They are 14605, 14604, 14621, 14608, 14611, 14613 and 14619.